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**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 12/6/01 3:59pm  
**Subject:** The Microsoft settlement.

This is an excerpt from a recent Red Hat newsletter:

"The settlement forces Microsoft to donate software, hardware, and services to America's poorest schools. Red Hat responded to the proposed settlement, pointing out that the settlement could simply introduce Microsoft to a market where they could further extend their monopoly. In its counter-proposal, Red Hat offered to provide free software to every school in America if Microsoft provided the value of its donation in hardware costs rather than its own software."

As an independent developer, I wondered the same question, How does allowing Microsoft to inject their products into the public school system penalize them?

Apple has used the academic field as their introduction point for decades, to their profitable benefit.

Making Microsoft distribute the alternatives systems and software would be a penalty.

Pat Bishop-Brown